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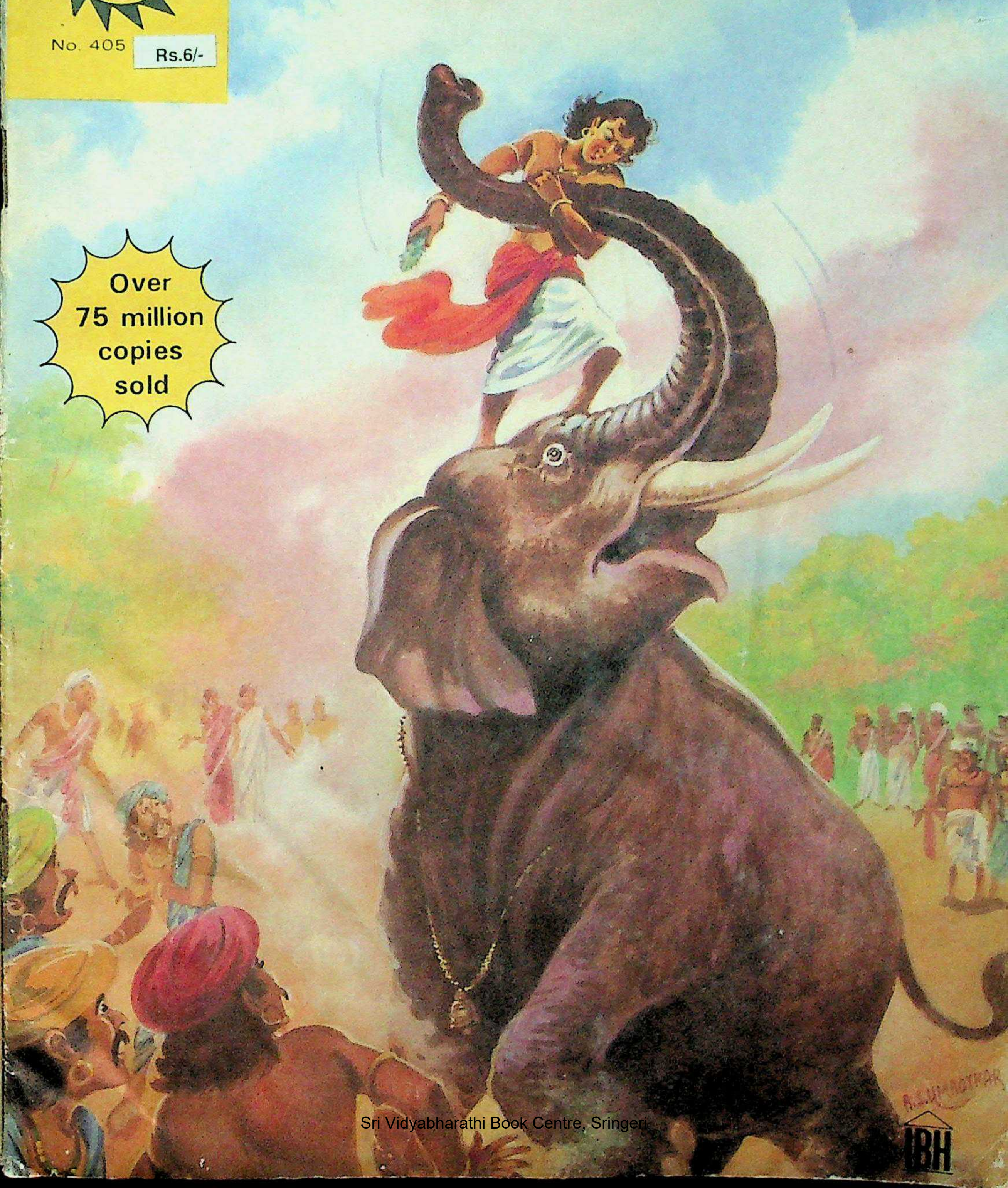

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It is said that even the great Kamban confessed that he had "sipped a spoonful of nectar from "Jivaka Chintamani" before composing his immortal Ramayana in Tamil.

The "Chintamani" a work of 13 chapters, on which this title is based was composed around the 8th century A.D. by a young Jaina monk Tirutakkadeva of Mylapore, Madras who later settled down at Madurai.

Once Tirutakkadeva was challenged by his colleagues to compose a work on marriage. The youthful poet, though himself committed to the stern life of an ascetic, created from his imagination this story of a Kshatriya prince, weaving into his verses the sublimity of conjugal love. At the end of the story we see the ascetic's realisation of the fleeting nature of wealth and material possessions.

It is interesting to note in passing that Mahavira and the Buddha, the propagators of Jainism and Buddhism respectively, belonged to the Kshatriya or warrior class. Kshatriyas, the ruling class, are normally associated with wars and conquests. Yet these two warrior heroes Mahavira and the Buddha were the fountainheads of the gentle cults that preached aversion for animal sacrifice, respect for all life, and adherence to the credo which the world needs more than anything else today: "Ahimsa Paramo Dharmah." Non-injury is the paramount dharma.

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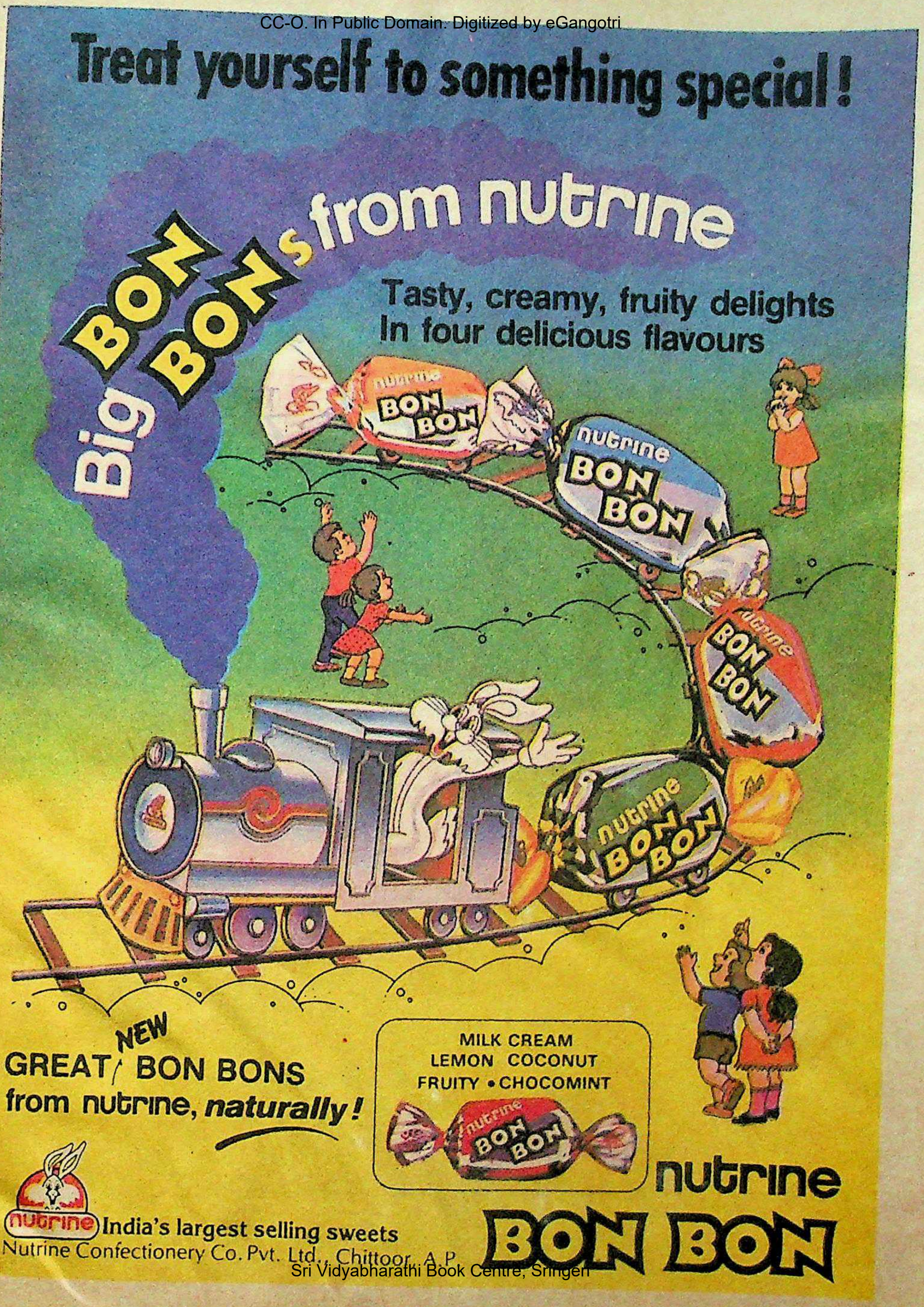

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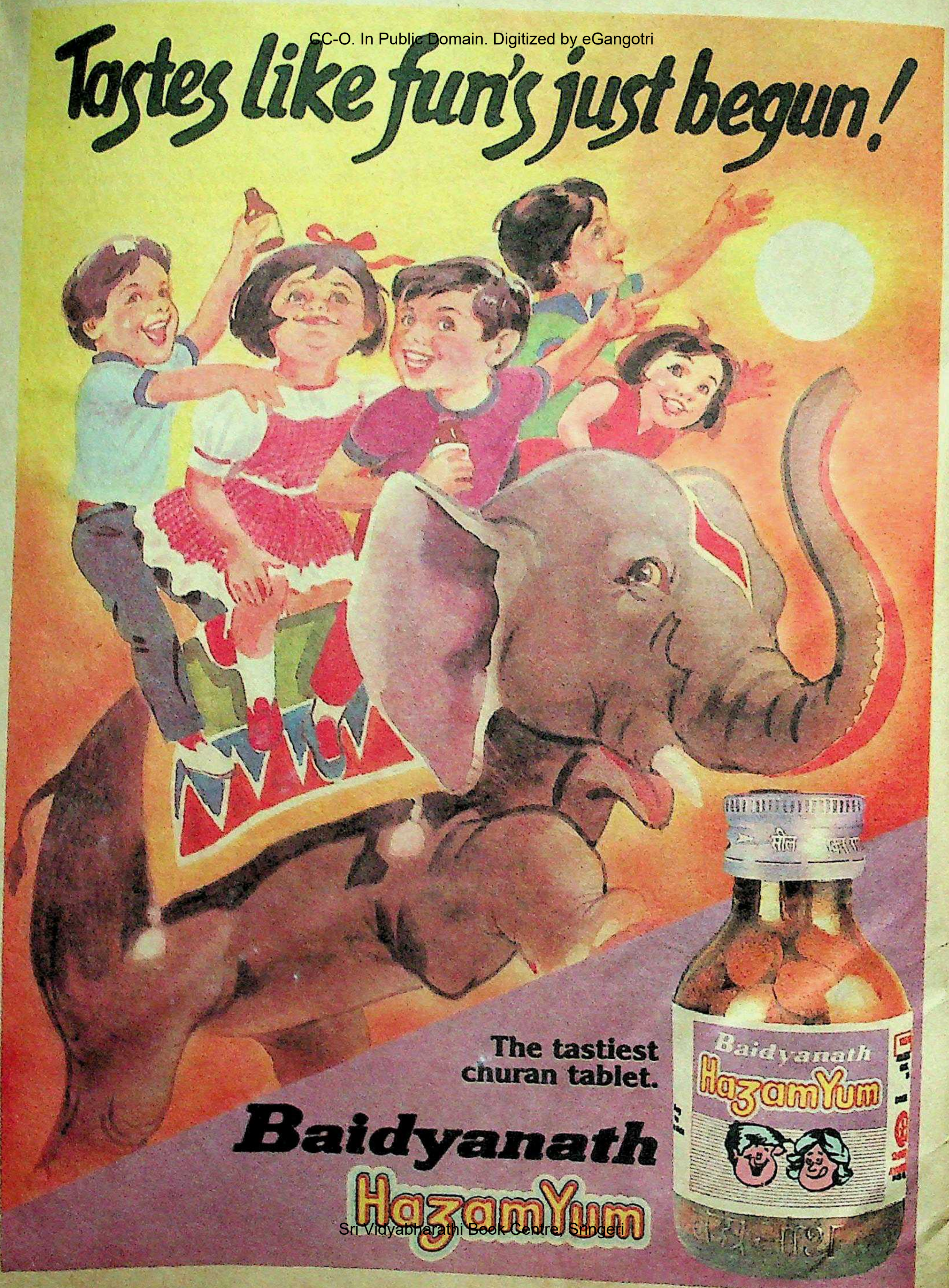

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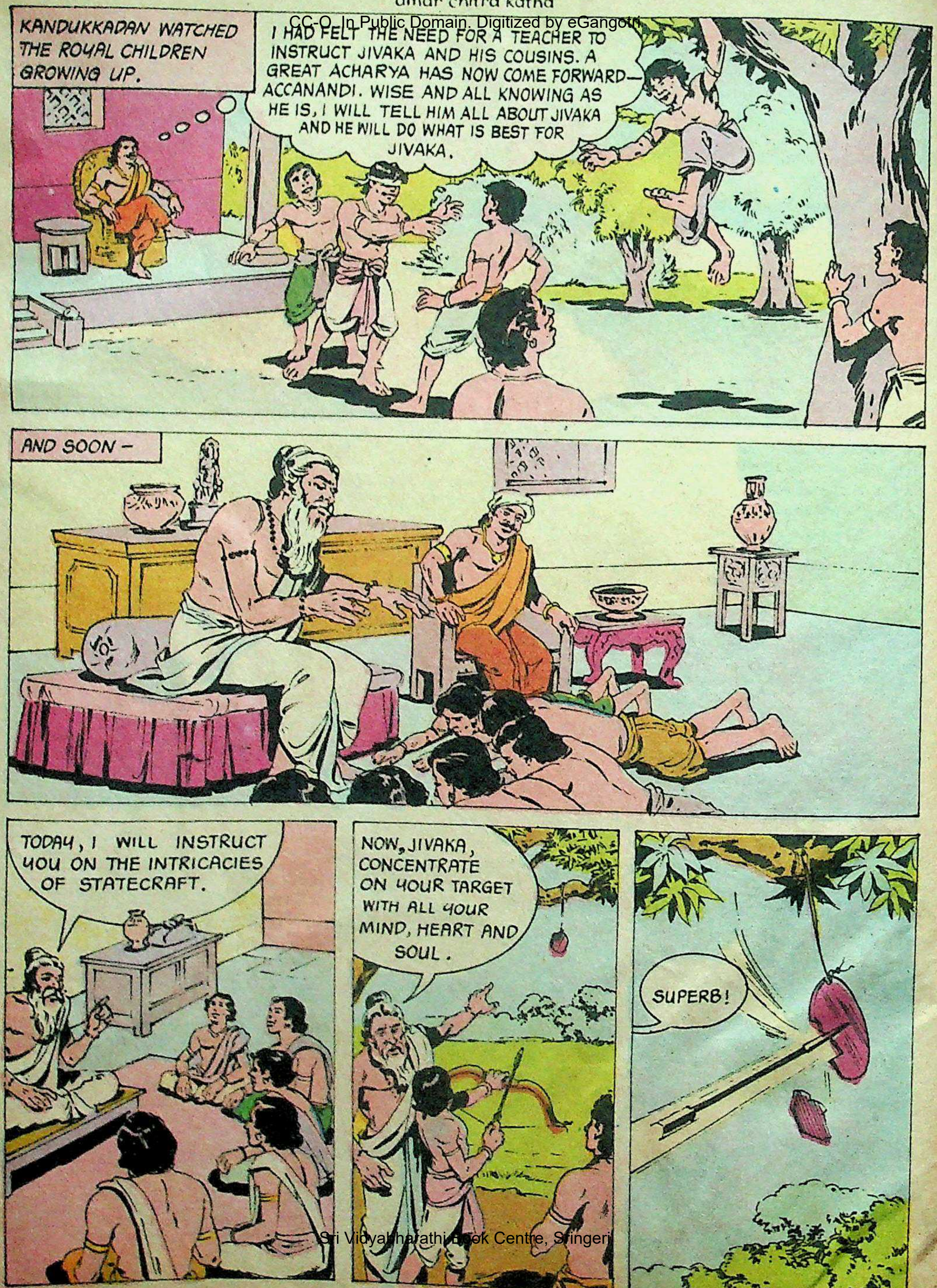

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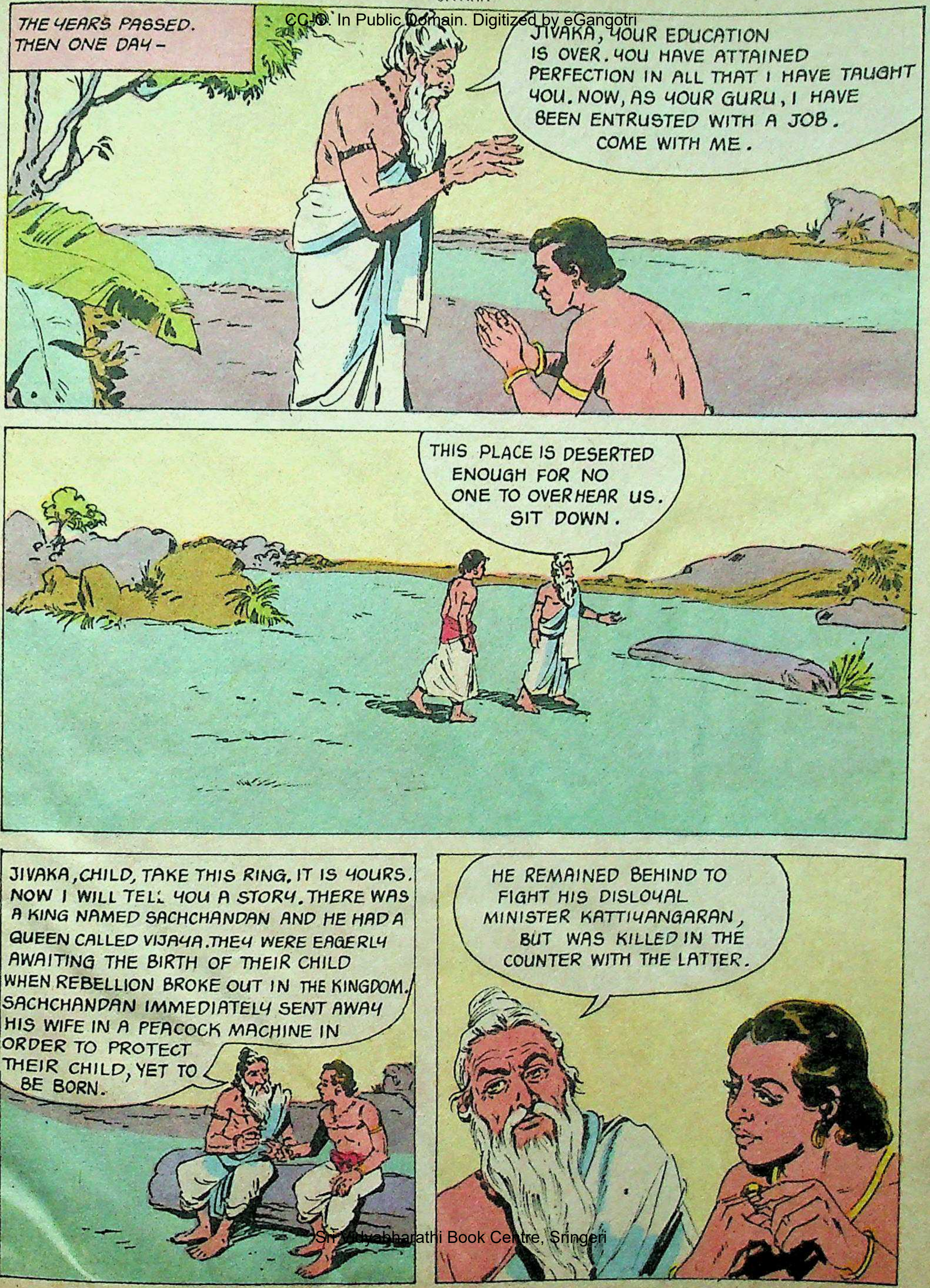

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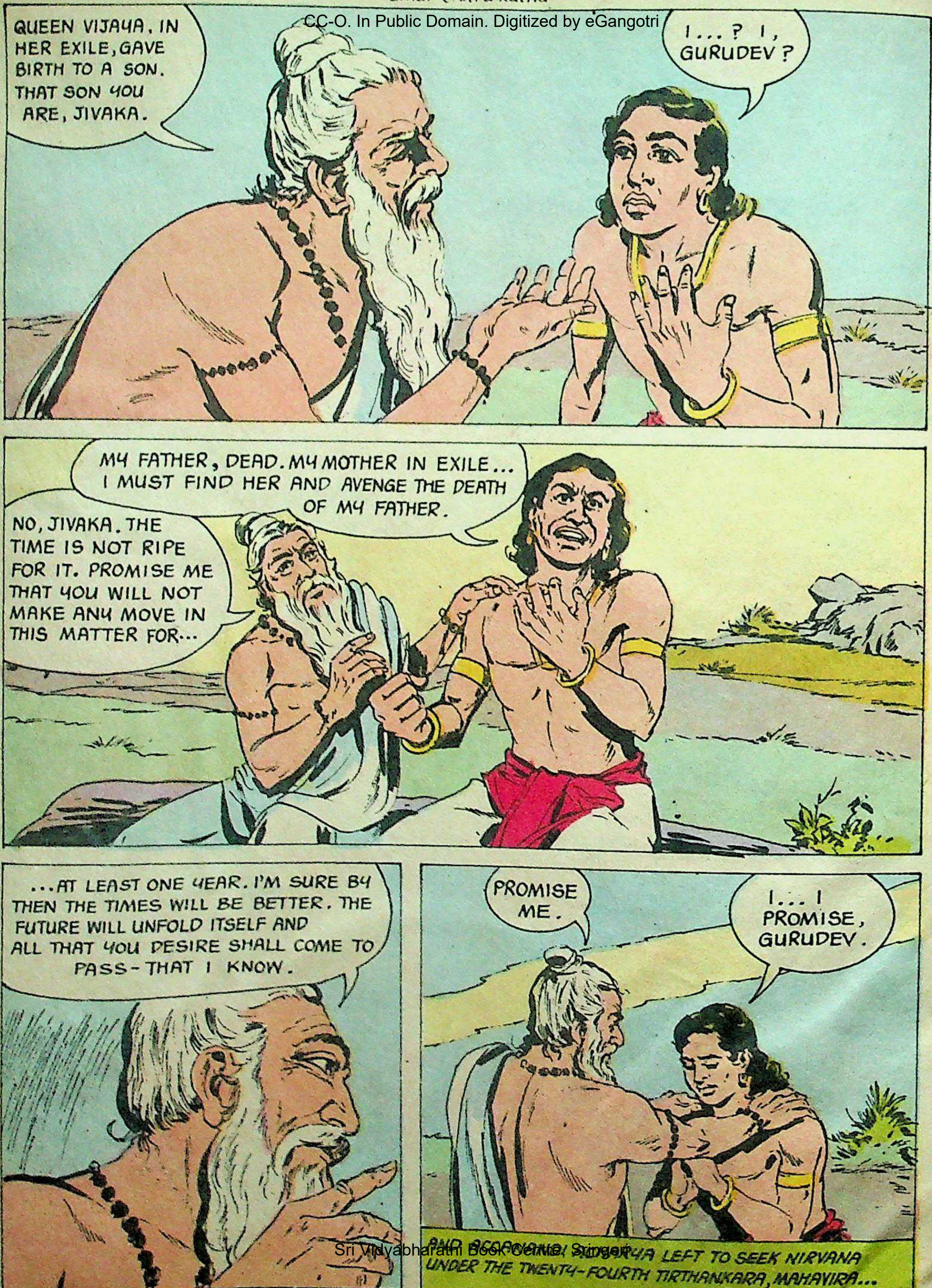

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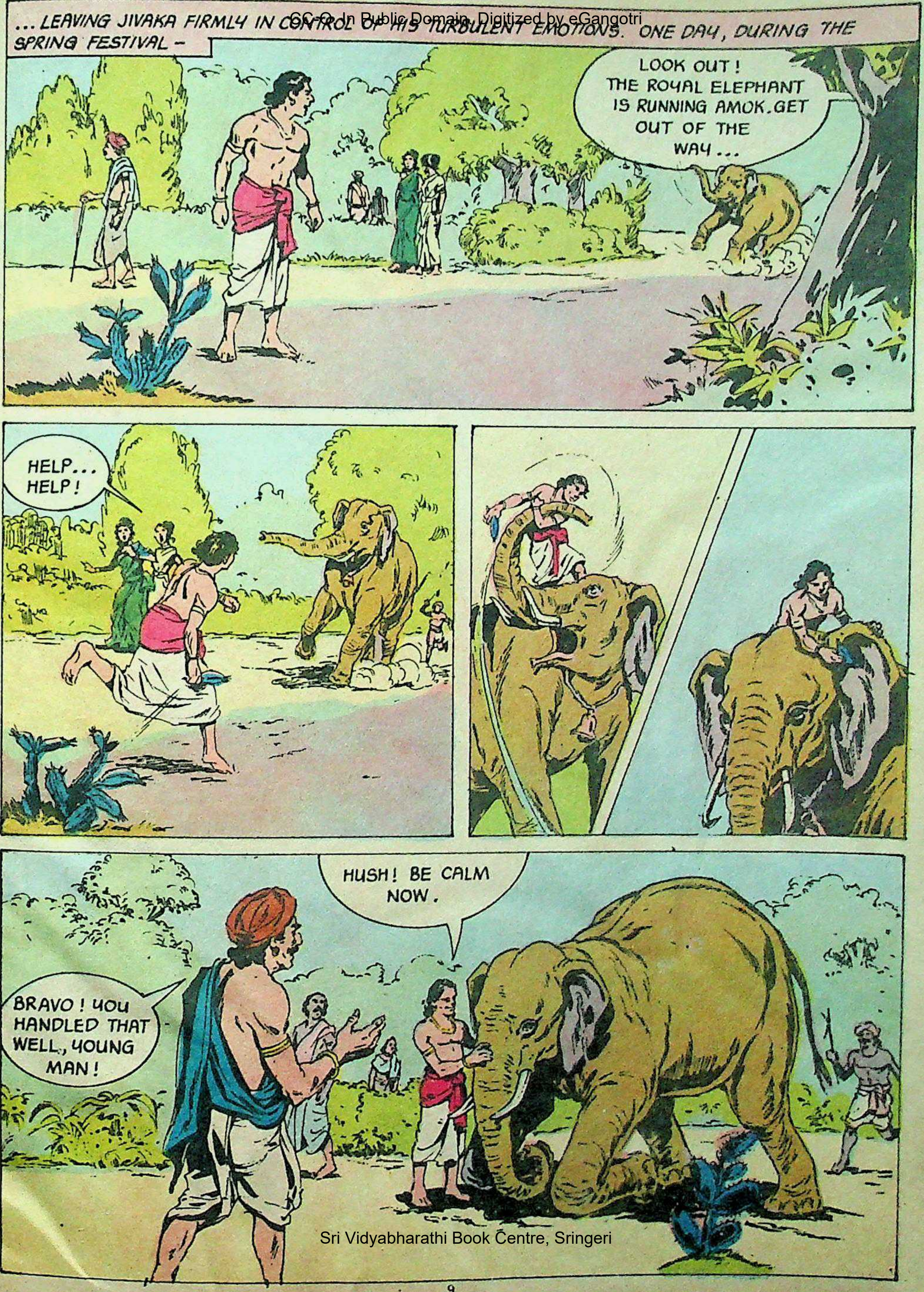

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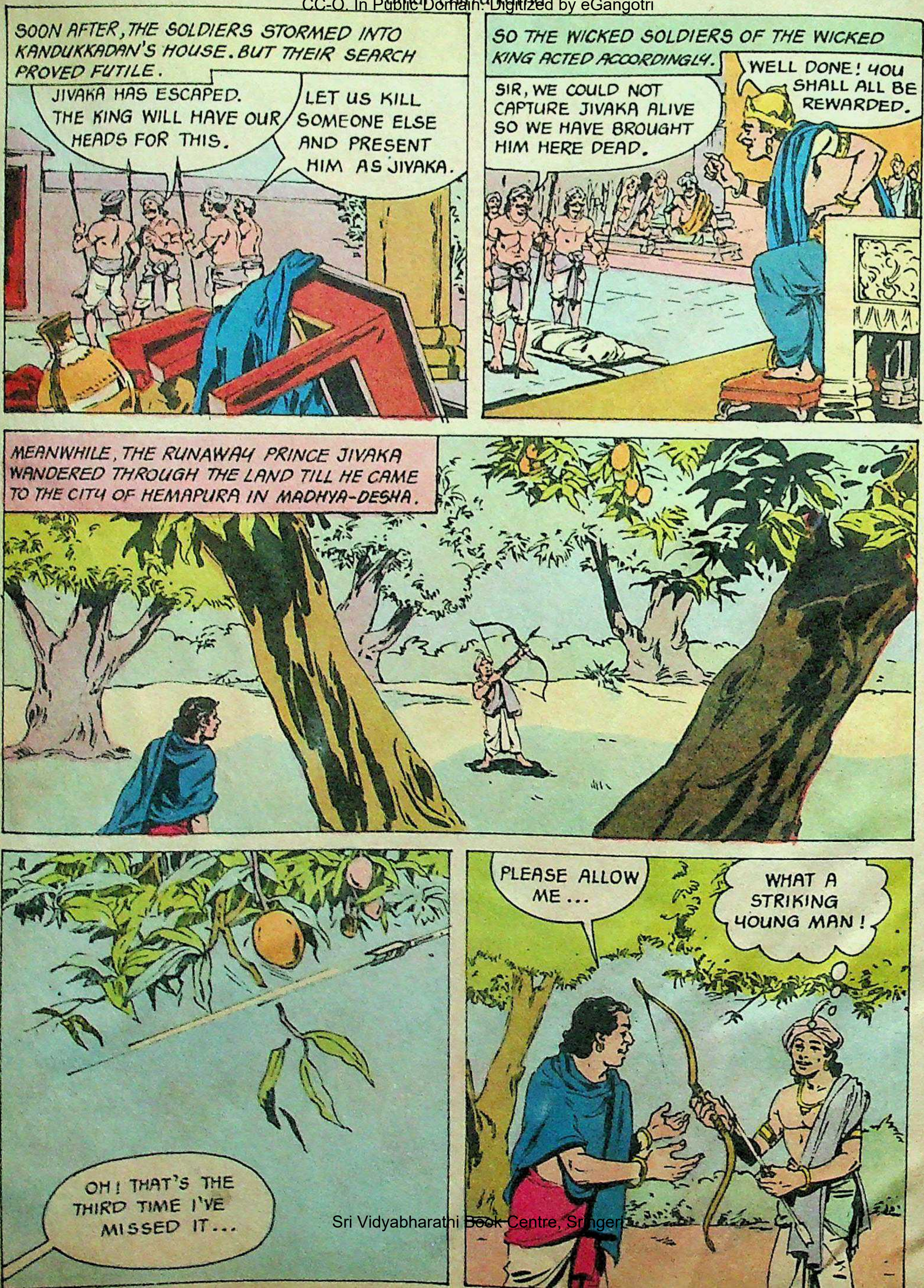

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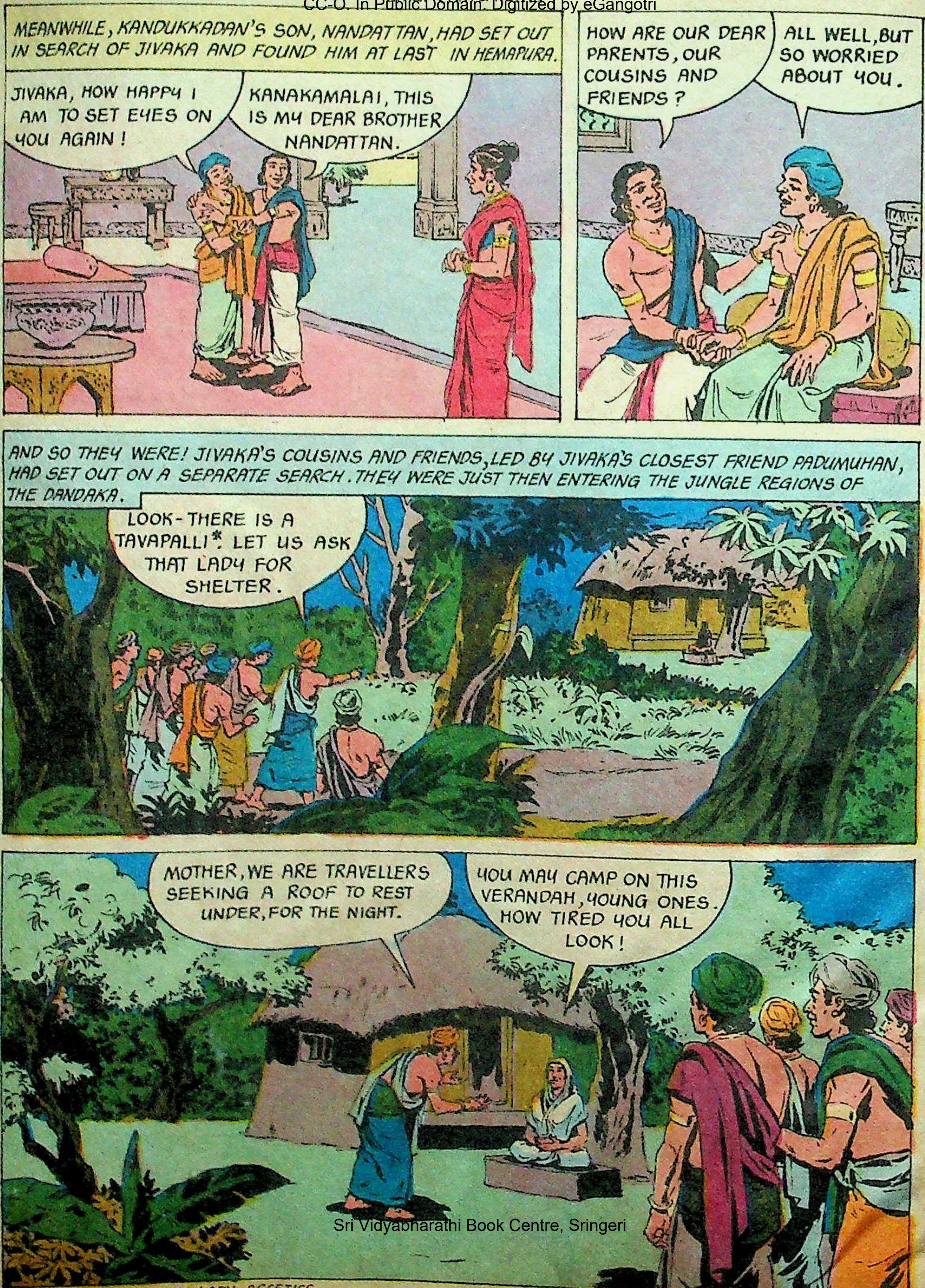

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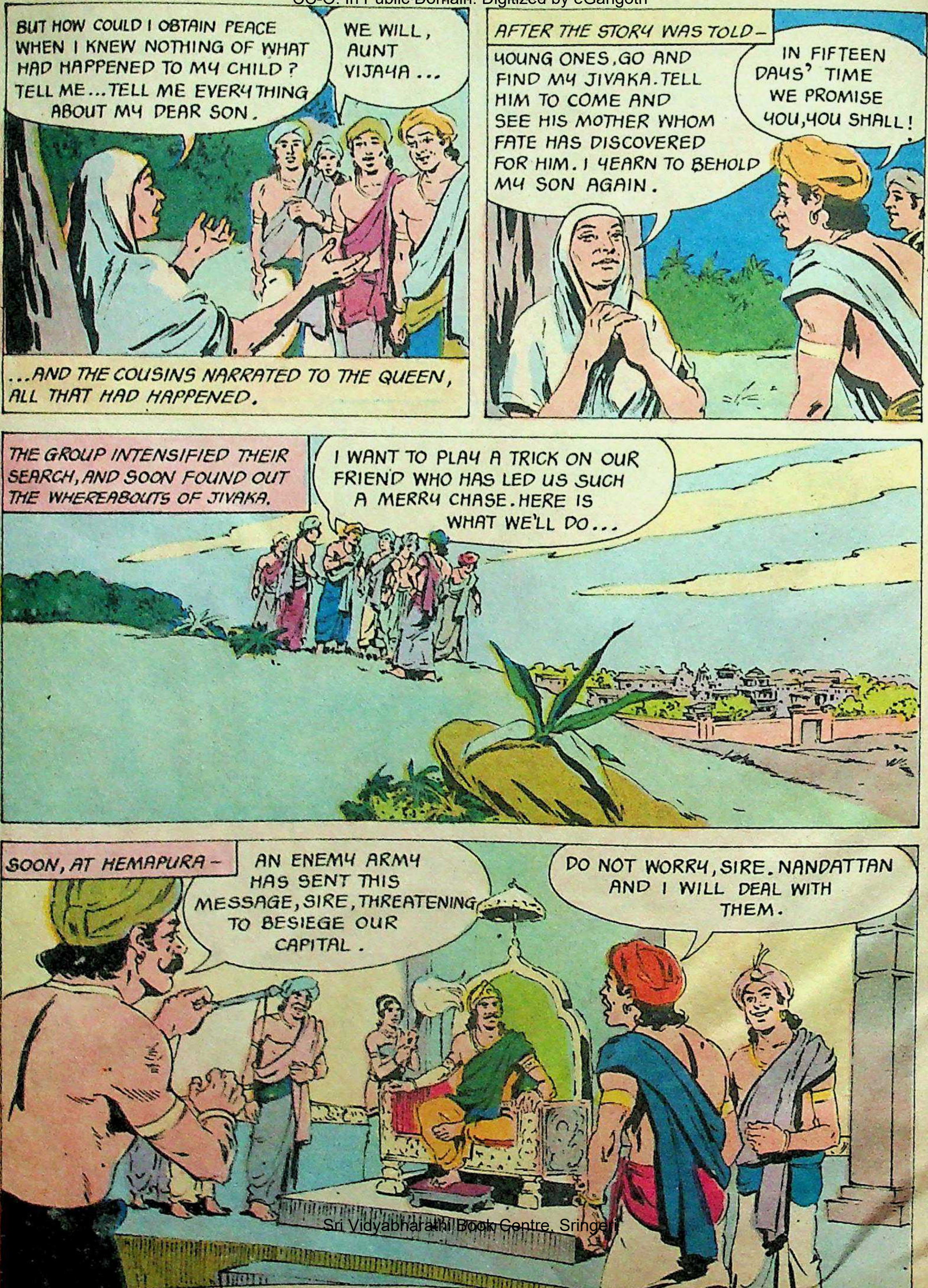

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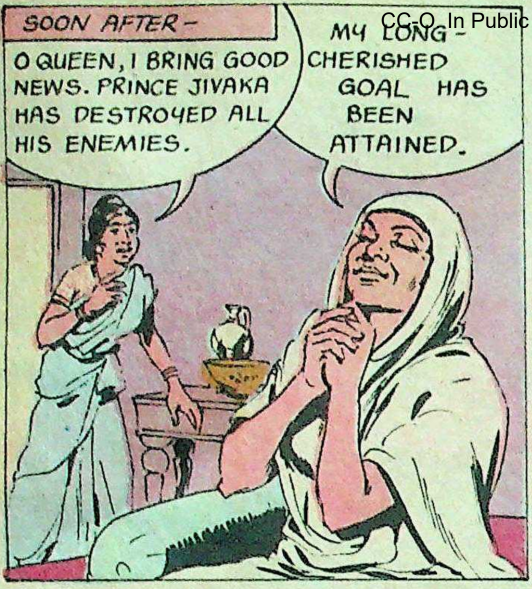

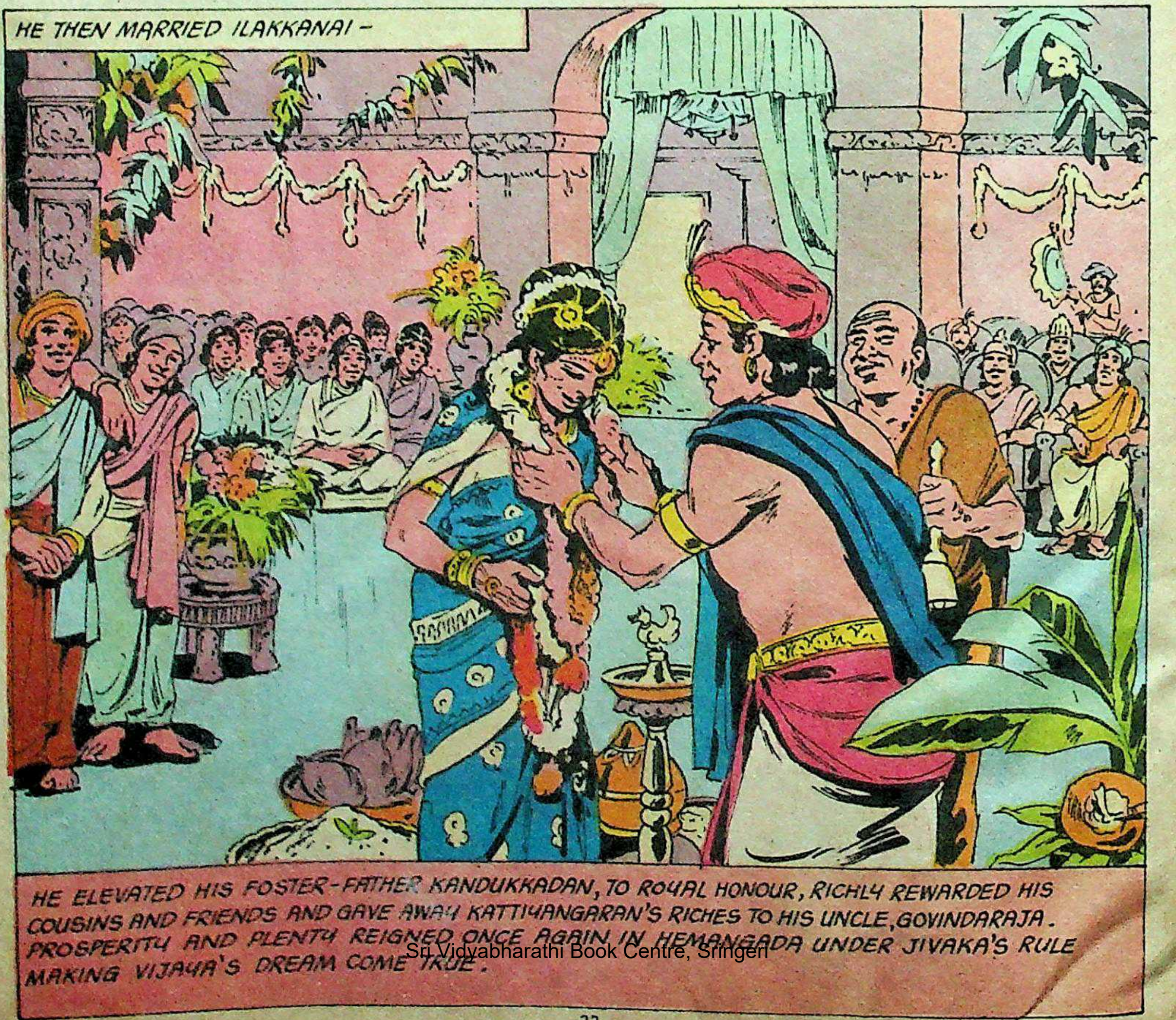

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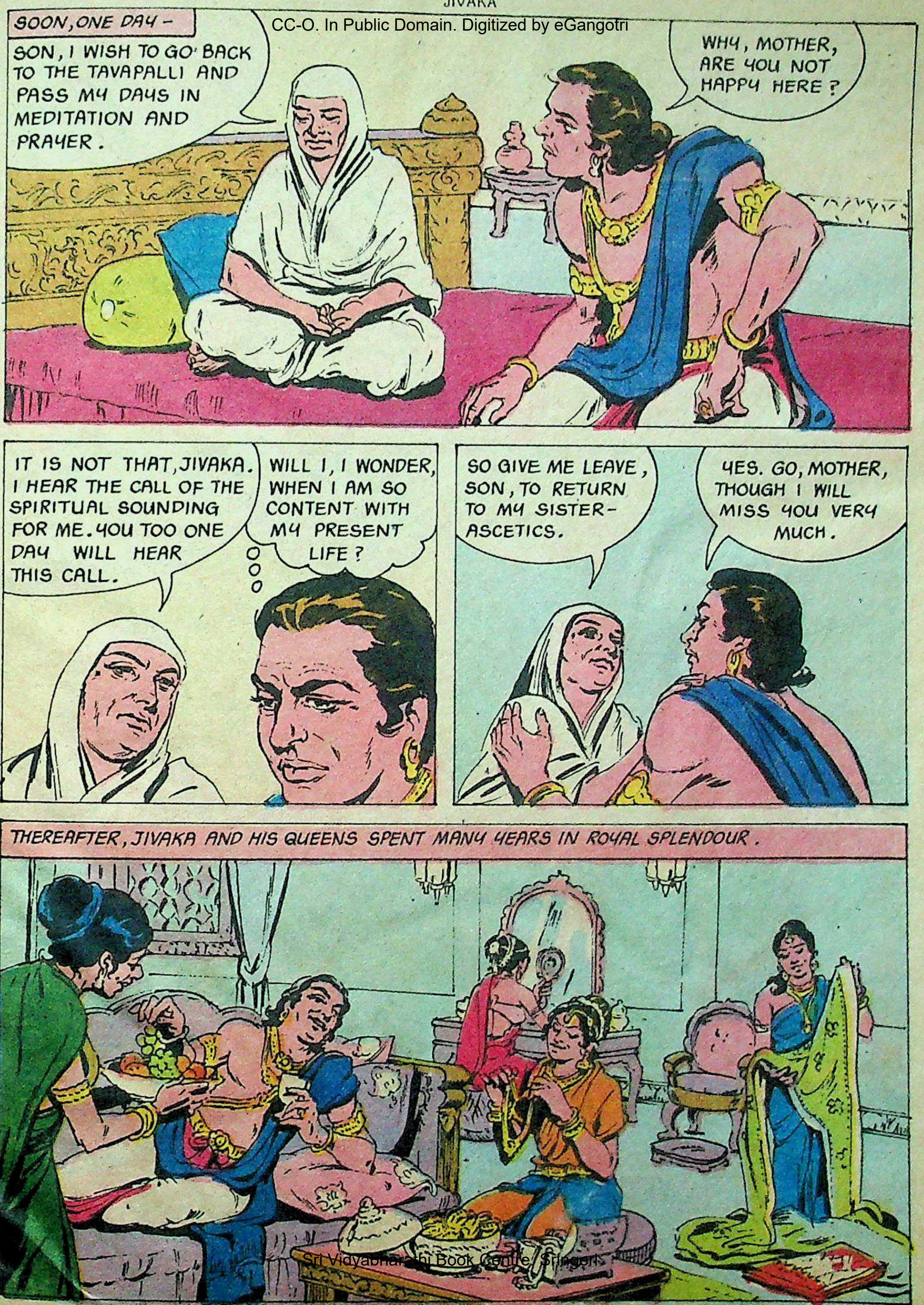

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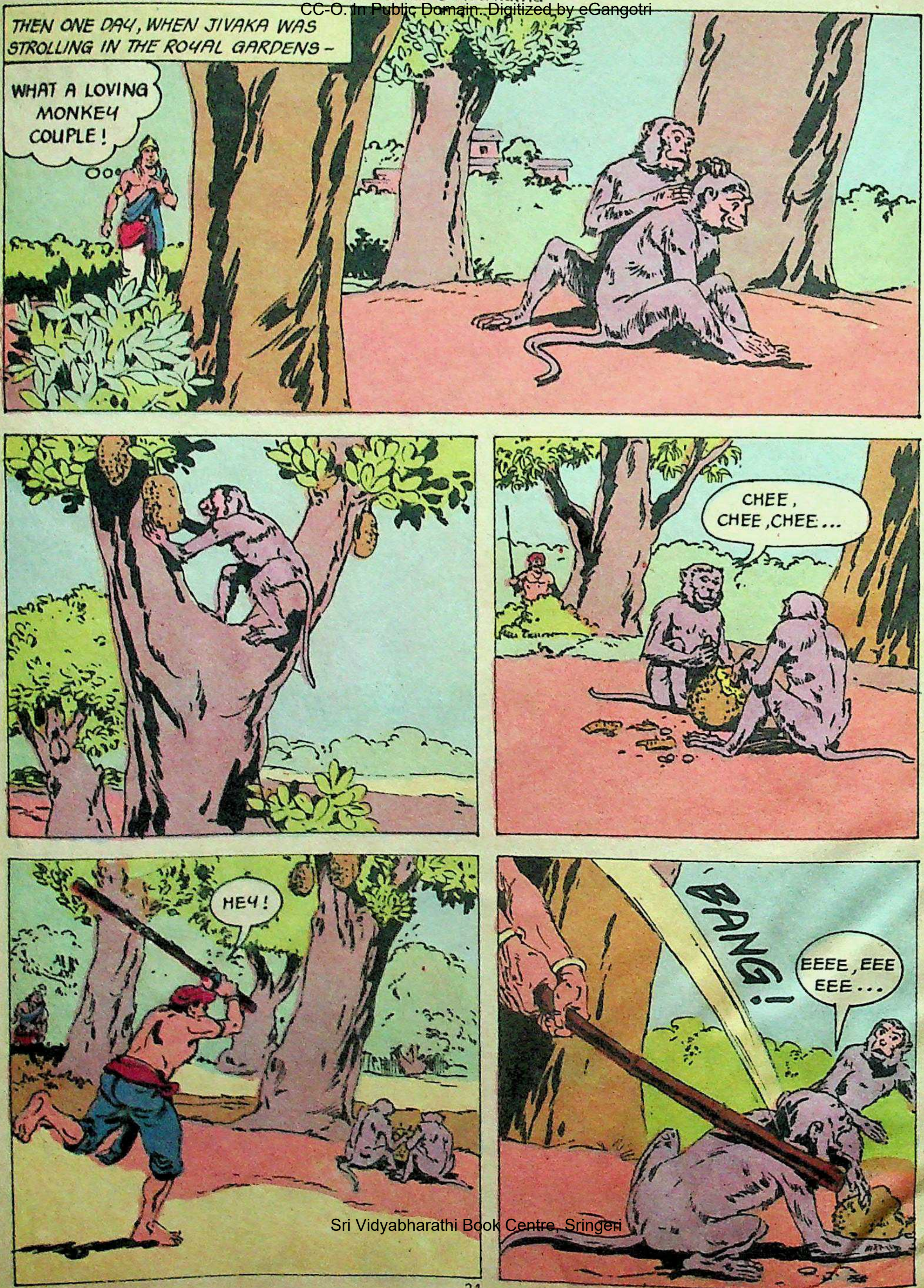

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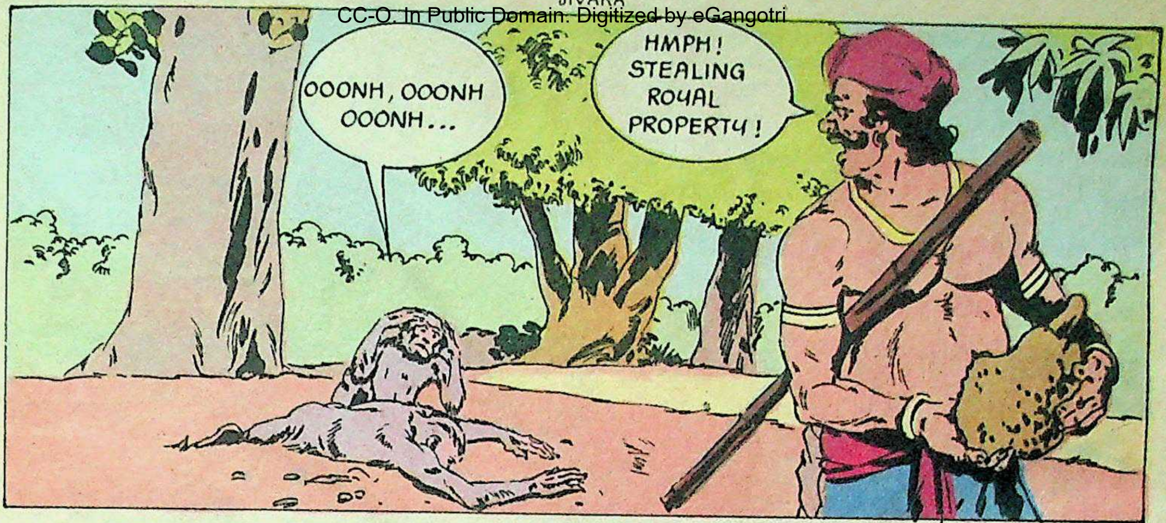

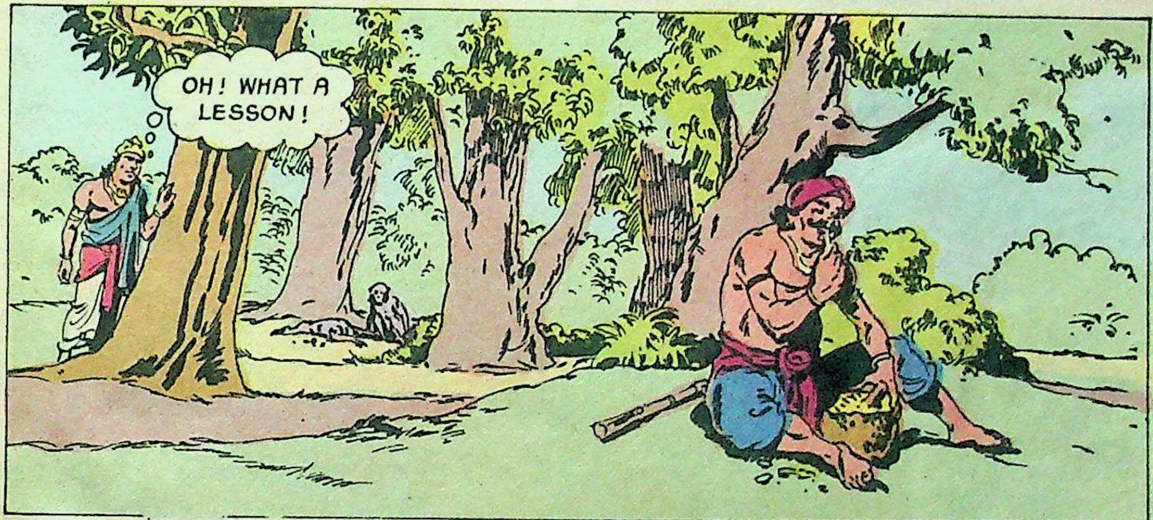

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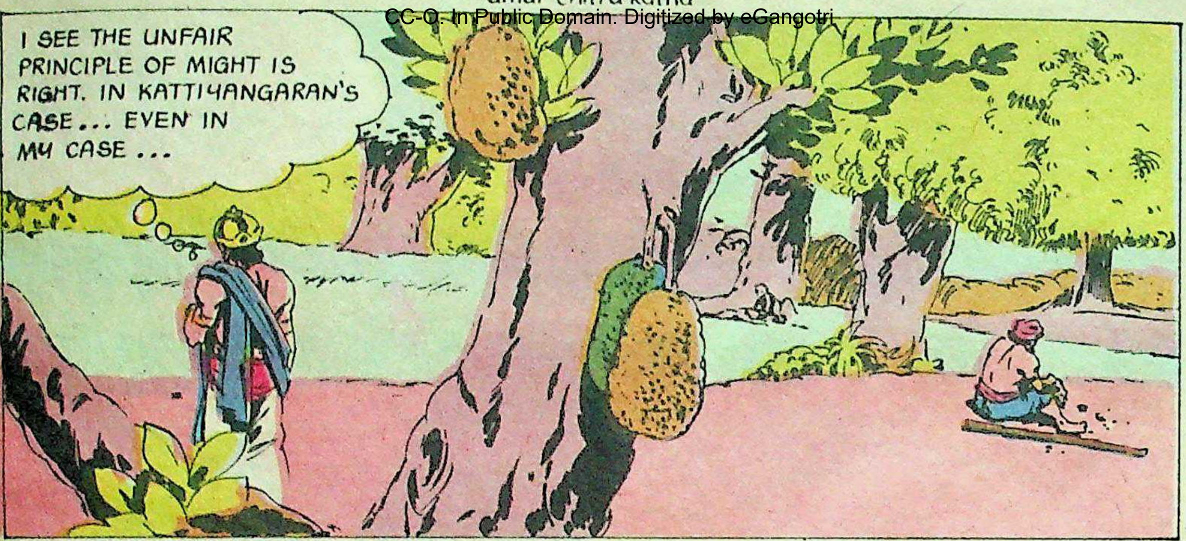

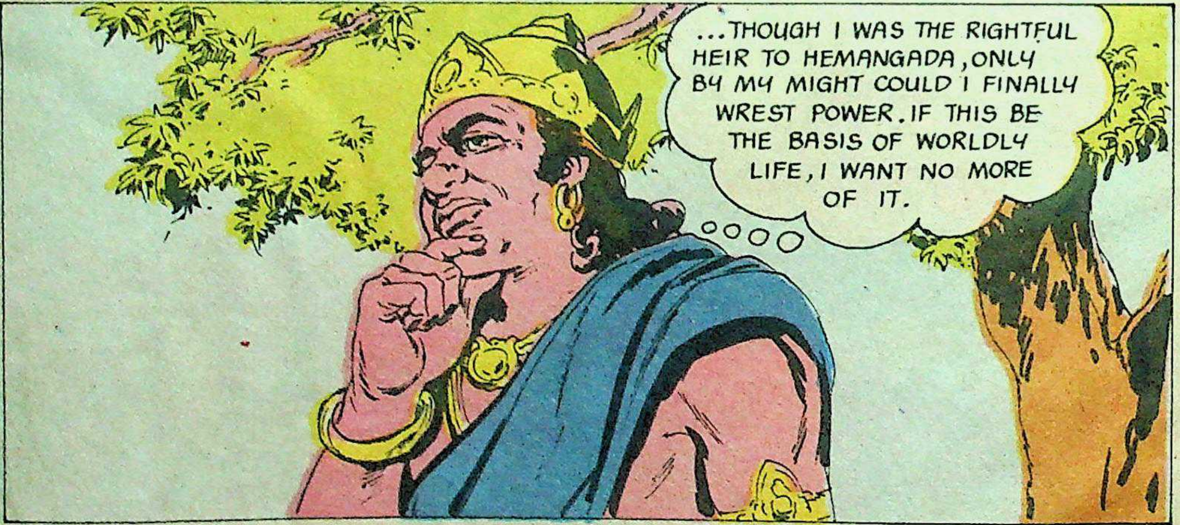

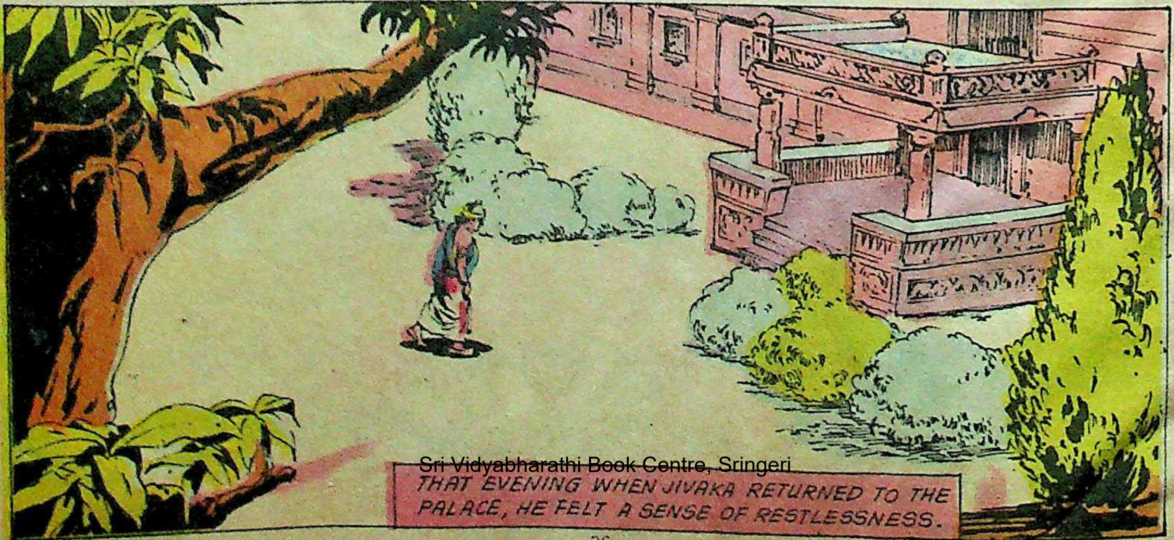

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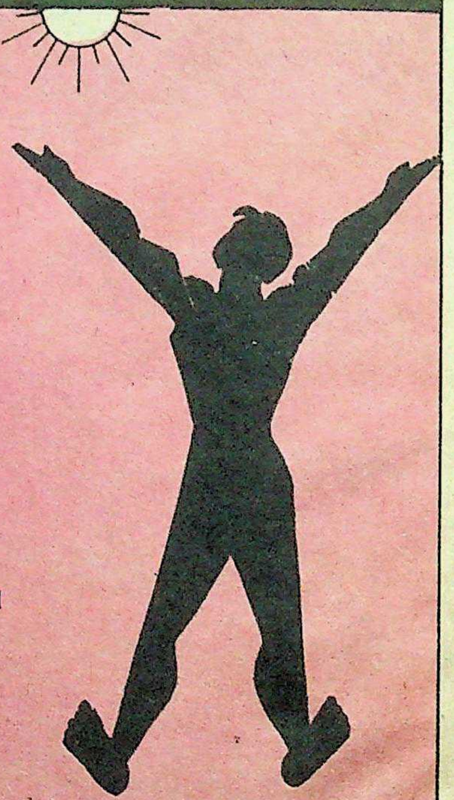

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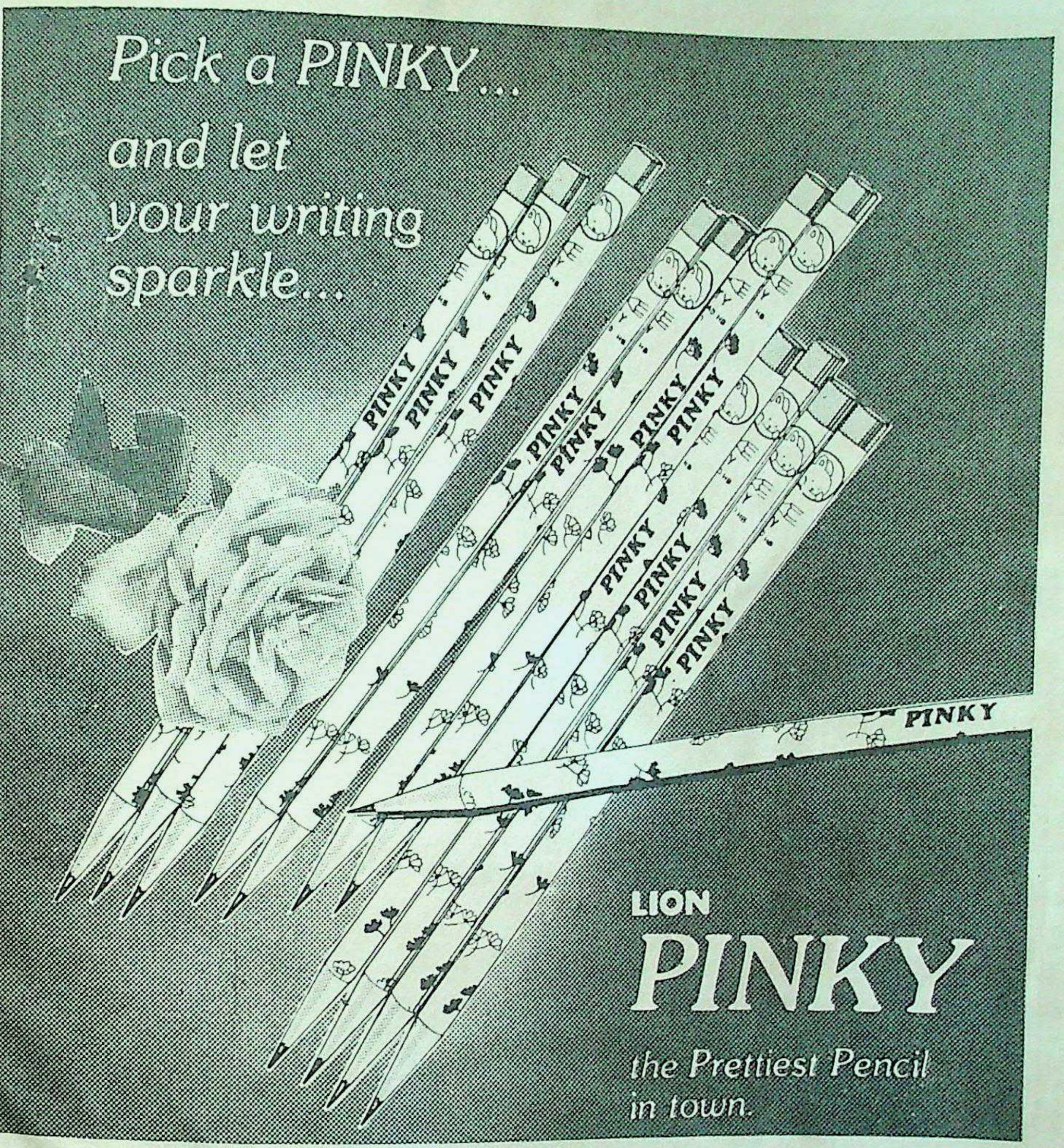

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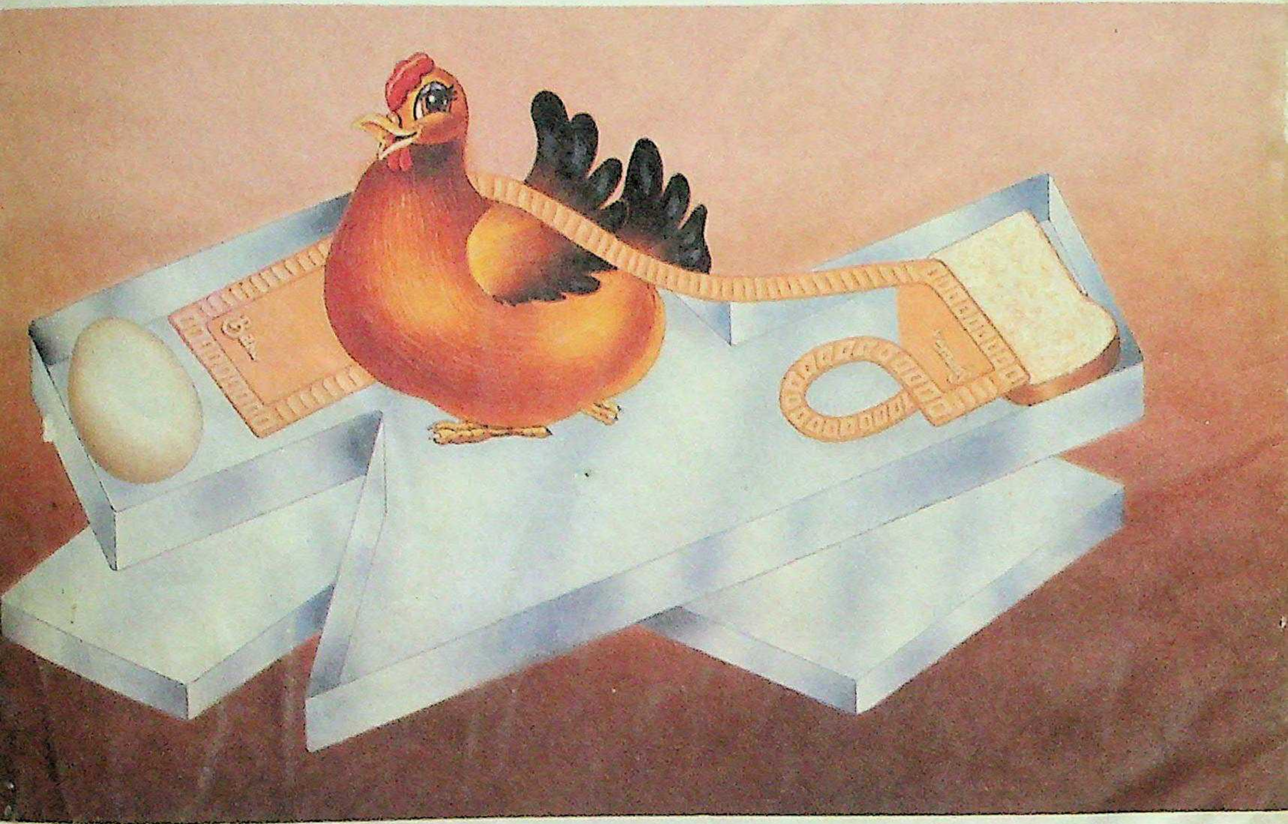

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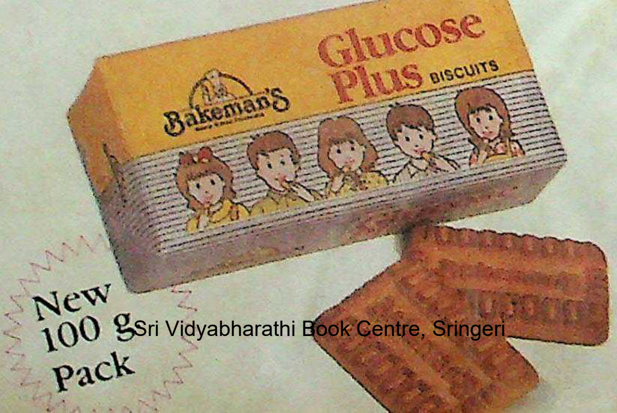

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